AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

Entered By Matt A

A concatenated ~~optical~~ signal carrying an arbitrary mix of concatenated data traffic is split and transported across a network ~~space~~ between a start node and an end node through a hyper-concatenated connection set up through independent pointer processor state machines. At a start node, the concatenated optical signal is split into two or more hyper-concatenated data streams. If a split occurs at a frame within a concatenated signal, the start node replaces a concatenation indicator of the frame with a payload pointer from a first frame of the concatenated signal and inserts a split indicator in the SS bits of the frame overhead. ~~The hyper-concatenated data streams are transported across the network space using respective ones of a plurality of independent channels.~~ At an end node, the hyper-concatenated data streams are recombined to recover the original concatenated signal. Frames containing split indicators are modified to remove the split indicator and to replace the payload pointer with a concatenation indicator. ~~The advantage is an ability to set up hyper concatenated connections through a network space containing independent pointer processors, such as legacy cross connects or ADMs~~.